

the NEW
Messenger

SPRING



Third
Avenue

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | *Part of the North Kent Circuit*

WELCOME TO THE Spring edition OF THE NEW MESSENGER

Most people, when asked to name their favourite time of year, will answer **spring** because it heralds regrowth and the promise of warmer, longer days. Most parks and gardens certainly look at their best in the springtime when everything is fresh and vibrant. In truth, we generally welcome all changes of season: we welcome the end of spring showers as they give way to long summer days; we welcome the coming of autumn with its colourful leaves and cosy feeling when coming indoors to escape the evening chill; and we even welcome the coming of winter with the enjoyment of Christmas to celebrate and perhaps a time to slow down and be more reflective. But there's nothing quite like the feeling of a mild and sunny spring day at the end of winter to remind us of the goodness of God in our lives.

*He has shown kindness
by giving you rain from heaven
and crops in their seasons:
He provides you with plenty of food
and fills your hearts with joy.*

ACTS 14:17

You can contact us anytime by email: messenger@gillinghammethodists.uk
by post: New Messenger | Third Avenue Church & Community | Gillingham | ME7 2LU
or come and chat to any of the team. Deadline to receive articles for the
SUMMER edition (June, July & August) will be 08 May 2022.

Easter hope

A message
from our Minister
Rev Robin Selmes



We have been living in unprecedented times which none of us have ever experienced before. The suffering and the death of so many loved ones have raised the question as to where God is in it all. I mean, if God is so closely involved in creation, how are viruses, earthquakes and floods possible? **Why does God allow suffering?**

For people who are involved in terrible suffering, there is really no answer and all one can do is to share their pain in the context of belief in a loving God who holds them in His arms. Ultimately the question of human suffering is a divine mystery which will become clear after death when we will no longer see it through humanity's tinted glasses but see clearly face to face.

However, for those of us not so personally involved and who struggle to justify our faith with family and friends, there are several things to be said.

Firstly, I firmly believe that God does not make people sick; and God does not want people to suffer. We can see this by looking at the life of Jesus. He healed the sick. He cured people. He did not make them sick! But why, then, are so many in pain?

There is no good or easy answer when tragedies occur. But to try and understand, we must step back and look at the big picture. In that God gave humans free will and unfortunately people will choose to do bad things. God is not into controlling people's lives. If God was merely to control everyone's actions, feelings and responses, that would take away our rights as individuals. He had to allow us the freedom to sin. Yet, on the other

hand, God does not want us to conform to the patterns of this world. Instead, he wants to renew our minds by the Holy Spirit. The more our minds are transformed into the likeness of Christ, the more the ways of the world's behaviour and thoughts will be pushed out of us.

Whilst God may not interfere with free will he does not leave us to suffer on our own. He is fully involved in His world and I believe, fully suffers with each human person. That involvement is supremely seen in Jesus – God actually became a suffering human being with us and, although he was an innocent and righteous man, he suffered more than anyone else who ever lived, dying for humanity's sin upon the cross. So in answer to the question, 'where is God in all the suffering?', well right at the heart of it. He is holding the hand of the person crushed by the falling rubble, wiping away the tears of those who are grieving.

These thoughts I have shared with you, I have believed for a long time. It's the only way I can cope with devastating natural disasters, the death or suffering of children and the pain of bereavement. However, as I have listened to people and read many articles in the last few years, I have come to a further insight. That, as people turn to God in their suffering, He can work with them to transform the suffering and to bring new life and hope out of what seemed to be death and desolation. This is what Christian hope is

rooted in - the death and resurrection of Jesus. Real hope is found in Easter because after every Good Friday there is always an Easter and Easter is about hope and restoration. The last two years have reminded us of how life is so fragile and fleeting. But hope reminds us that we will one day be reunited with those we love. Death does not last forever. Jesus has conquered death and the grave! And through this it gives us **HOPE** for better things.

Easter is also a glimpse of eternity. Though this world is no longer perfect, as God intended it to be;

He will create a perfect world for us in heaven where there will no longer be any tears, pain, or suffering; and death will be swallowed up in victory. Why? Because God will ultimately get rid of everything that is not **HIS**. Suffering, sin, pain, tears and death are not **HIS**.

We may not know what our earthly future holds, but we have **HOPE** that all suffering will be relieved when we go to spend eternity with God.

Robin

It is with sadness that we announce that Helen is stepping down from her role as Youth Pastor at Third Avenue and moving to pastures new in Birmingham. Helen has been with us for 8 years and has had a tremendous impact on the life of the Church and community. She is one of those special people who treats everyone as though they really matter, who cares about each person she works with, and who has made a real difference to the lives of our young people.

With her joyous fast talking enthusiasm, Helen has supported and initiated a number of created youth

activities, trips and events in order to show God's love. She has left her essence etched in the minds of the young people in our congregation. As minister I am grateful for the ministry we have shared together and invite you to join with me in praying for Helen and for the new and deepening ministry to which God is calling her.

Rev Robin Selmes



Goodbye

I am sat here at my desk, in the church that has been my home for almost 8 years, writing my final youth pastor update for the magazine (I may also be shedding a tear or two as I write this).

When I moved to this unknown part of the UK (for me), I had no idea, how well I would settle in and become part of the wonderful church that worships here.

Over my time here I have had the privilege to lead the youth ministry and be a part of its growth. It has been my joy and blessing to work with the wonderful young people and volunteers.

Over my time here we have seen the youth cafe reach out to many young people. I must have played 100s of games over the years and we

must have gone through 1000s of biscuits and teabags, in making a friendly and welcoming place for the young people to hang out in.

We have started up a youth group and a youth Bible study that is still going and serving our young people.

We have led teaching on a Sunday morning and our young people have gone from strength to strength

in leading youth services. It has been so wonderful to see them grow in confidence over the years and lead us all in some beautiful acts of worship.

In recent times, we have moved onto videos and online groups, which turned out to work well, and we have continued with this work. I ask for your continued support in this work as it aims to continue once I have left.

And now for some thank yous...

To the church – Thank you for always loving and supporting myself and the young people of our church. Thank you for championing the youth ministry and seeing the importance of it. You all supported me in one of the hardest periods in my life, when my Dad died in 2018. You loved me, looked after me and let me grieve. I shall never forget the kindness I was shown in this particular period.

To my volunteers (past and present)

Words cannot say how grateful I am for all the time and energy that you give to the youth work here. I genuinely could not have done any of this job, if it was not for people like you who gave up their time to work alongside me.

To my young people – you are the reason I do this job! And I can truly say that it was been my joy and honour to have been your youth worker for the past 8 years. You have taught me so much about myself and about my faith. I pray for God's love to shine over you and for you to know God's peace and guidance over your lives.

But for now, it is time for me to move North....well the furthest North I have ever lived and head to Birmingham to begin a new chapter in my life.

But I will stay in touch and keep you in my prayers.

Helen x

*Helen's 'farewell' will be recognised in the the service on Sunday 6 March, 10.30am. If you wish to contribute towards a gift for Helen, please can you leave with Mark Frost; one of the stewards or donate online by Wednesday 2 March. If you are making a donation online please include the reference 'Helen', or email Carol | Treasurer@gillinghammethodists.uk to say you have made a donation
Thank you.*



FROM
8.30am
LAST ORDERS
AT 10.30am



NAKED* BREAKFAST!

SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2022

Donations in support of our **charity of the year** ~
Medway Street Angels and church funds.

Join us for a chance to say farewell to **Helen Young**,
our **Youth Pastor** and to have some time to get
to know each other better, learning more about
our church and how we can better serve
our church and community.


**Third
Avenue**
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit



***better naked** make delicious **bacon without nitrites** or
any other nasties; tasty **sausages without artificial additives**
and allergens and **plant-based bacon** without the oink!

DAFFODIL DAY 2022

A SPRING FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT AND RENEWAL

'He Bids Us Build Each Other Up'

WITH

Pam Rhodes – Broadcaster & Author

The Lord Mayor of Westminster

Revd Sonia Hicks - President of the Methodist Conference

Barbara Easton - Vice President of Conference

Revd Nigel Cowgill - Chair of the London District

Ruth Parrott – President of Methodist Women in Britain

The Boxted Methodist Silver Band

Anando Mukerjee – Lirico-Spinto Tenor

Mariam Davina - Gospel Singer

And the Methodist Central Hall Westminster Staff Team



SATURDAY, 5TH MARCH AT 2PM WITH
COMMUNITY SINGING FROM 1.40PM
METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER

Please book online at mchw.live/daffodilday22

Save the date for next year Saturday, 4th March 2023



METHODIST
CENTRAL HALL



mchw.live
tel 020 76543809



Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia, for their countries and their leaders. We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear. We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness. We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn swords into ploughshares and to seek peace. We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ. Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace in Ukraine. And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy. Amen

Join in with online prayer for Ukraine on Ash Wednesday

The Conference of European Churches which includes the World Methodist Council, has issued an invitation to an online prayer service on Ash Wednesday, 2 March at 17.00 (CET). The service will bring together Christians from Ukraine and other parts of the world, seeking peace and an end to the ongoing conflict.

Register to join via methodist.org.uk/our-faith/prayer/prayer-for-peace-in-ukraine/



When a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, it's hard to believe it's the same creature. But at both stages of its life, it has a body that is perfectly suited to living in a particular environment.

This insect can help us understand the afterlife and the significance of the resurrected Jesus. Paul, on his journeys, discovered that some members of the church in Corinth were confused about life after death. So, Paul, wrote a lengthy letter to them to explain the importance of the resurrection of Jesus, and how it affects our future existence.

Paul doesn't mention caterpillars and butterflies but describes a seed becoming a plant. By just looking at an individual seed there is no knowing what it is going to look like! But out of its death comes a beautiful new life form.

Paul points out that all living beings have a body that enables them to live in a particular environment. There are earthly bodies for living in a physical world and a spiritual body for living in the heavenly realms. And so God will give to us a new spiritual body to enable us to live with Him in heaven.

Of course, all butterflies eventually die, but in our resurrected body we will not be subject to decay or death. How do we know this?

Jesus said:

*Because I live,
you also will live*

John 14:19.

Jesus pioneered the way for us. He died on the cross, arose from the grave, and so opened up the way for all believers in Him to go to Heaven. Thanks be to God!

Every Friday
in the Foyer

Chrysalis

A time of fellowship for all ages, with gentle chair exercise and relaxation, particularly for those who suffer with arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic or general aches and pains.
Bring your own lunch.

12.30~2.15pm



Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY

We have been meeting now for more than 6 years. Originally set up for people suffering from fibromyalgia and rheumatoid arthritis, it has quickly moved to anyone, of any age, who suffers any type of severe pain issues.

We meet from **12.30 to 2.15pm** with the first 30 minutes for eating our own lunch together with plenty of free tea and coffee available. We have a period of gentle guided chair exercises followed by a short guided relaxation session all of which are very lighthearted.

We round off with more tea and coffee. We enjoy good conversation and we are a very friendly group. We have a group of people who organise and offer assistance if and when needed.

Because of meeting under Covid conditions we currently don't provide biscuits and cake but we are very happy for you to bring your own.

If you want to find out more then please just pop in any Friday and see for yourself what we have on offer. There is no charge for the session but we do have a donation box but contributing is entirely voluntary.

Tony Crowcroft



CRAFT CLUB

GET CRAFTY!

Every **TUESDAY** in the **FOYER** | **12-30-3pm**

Bring your own **LUNCH**

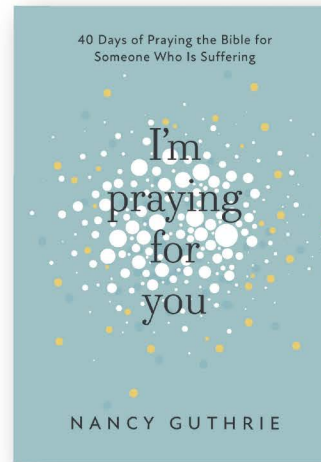
EVERYONE Welcome

Don't forget the clocks spring forward one hour in the early hours of Sunday 29 March



Book Reviews

from Parish Pump

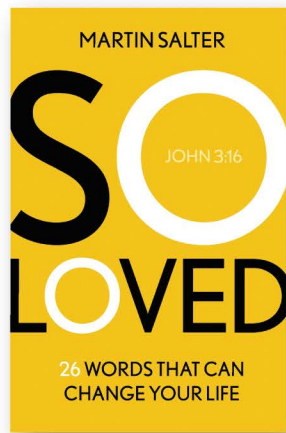


I'm Praying for You – 40 days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering | By Nancy Guthrie | 10Publishing £6.99

When we hear that a friend is struggling, it can be easy to say, 'I'm praying for you', but harder to know what you can actually pray!

Through forty carefully chosen Scripture passages, Nancy Guthrie opens up the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are hurting. She shows us how the Bible provides us with a vocabulary for prayer that enables us to ask God to achieve what He intends in and through suffering. Nancy teaches us to see how God's purposes are revealed even in our darkest days, and encourages us to pray for His will to be done in difficult situations.

Each chapter includes a passage, a short explanation, and a prayer for your friend. Using the QR code at the end of each prayer, you'll be able to load and send a personal text message to the person you're praying for so that he or she will know not only that you are praying, but exactly what you are praying.



So Loved – 26 words that can change your life
Martin Salter | IVP £5.99

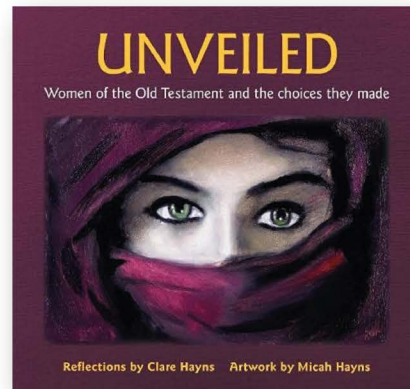
Here's an astonishing claim. John 3:16 appears on everything from fridge magnets to sports stars' faces. But what does it actually mean? And how does it relate to you and me? With warmth, personal stories and humour, the author explains God's love,

His Son, His sacrifice, and the all-important connection with us today. This is an invitation for anyone to dive straight in and take the first step in an exciting, life-transforming journey of faith.

Unveiled – Women of the Old Testament and the choices they made | Clare Hayns and Micah Hayns | CPO | £9.99

This richly illustrated book contains 40 daily readings and reflections, each illustrated with original artwork created in charcoal, oils and collage, imagining the woman in question, bringing her out of the shadows and making strikingly relevant connections with today's context.

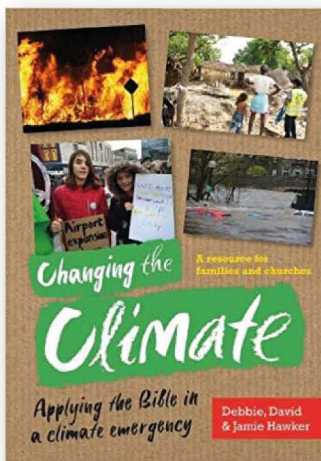
Some women of the Hebrew scriptures are well known, but many others are barely remembered. Even when they are, we often don't pause on them long enough to think about what we might learn from them. Each reflection ends with a short application to everyday life, guidance for further thought and a prayer.



Changing the Climate: applying the Bible in a climate emergency | Debbie, David and Jamie Hawker BRF | £9.99

The climate crisis is one of the most important issues of our time, threatening lives and livelihoods. The Bible teaches us that God the Creator put humans on the Earth to take care of it; to show love to all, and to care for the poor and vulnerable.

This workbook shows how the Bible is relevant to environmentalism, and how we can all play our part in limiting the negative effects of climate change. Each of the 12 chapters looks at a particular Bible passage, connects it with climate action, poses questions and suggests practical steps that can be taken.



the Potato Planters
Jean-Francois Millet

God *in*
the Arts

Rev Michael Burgess writes...

Enter my rest

At this time of the year, we are planning our gardens for the Spring and Summer ahead. The book of Genesis opens with a glorious account of God's work of creation, and it also tells us that God rested on the seventh day.

We all need to find that balance of work and rest, of activity and slowing down in our lives. And we are not always good at that because our world seems to be in the fast lane. We rush everywhere, we rush out of habit, and we rush because everyone around us is rushing.

This month's painting, 'The Potato Planters' by Jean-Francois Millet, a 19th century French artist, portrays two peasants at work. They don't seem to be rushing, but Millet has certainly portrayed the hard toil of their work, digging in the earth from sunrise to sunset to eke out a living. Millet was the son of a farm labourer and many of his paintings convey the severe realism of peasant life. We can sympathise with the couple working on the land, and our eyes focus on them as they dominate the canvas.

But in the corner under the shade of a tree there is a donkey and a sleeping child. The donkey knows only too well the reality of toil and work, but here he is resting, enjoying the peace and the shade.



Andy Merrifield, an American philosopher, has just published an account of his travels with a donkey, Gribouille. As they journey together, the donkey teaches him the value of patience, the importance of going slowly through the world, and the preciousness of tender friendship between humans and animals. They are all caught up in the little donkey in this painting.

The man and woman in the foreground may reflect our own lives with the duties, the expectations and the demands called of us at work. Take time to focus on the donkey, enjoying his rest. Take time this Spring and Summer to find relaxation and recreation. The world may carry on spinning around us, but we can stand apart, and enter into the rest that God enjoyed after His work of creation.

JESUS REDISCOVERED

LENT SERMON SERIES @
THIRD AVENUE | SUNDAYS 10.30AM

6 MARCH	JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT	REV ROBIN SELMES
13 MARCH	JESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD	IAN WATTON
20 MARCH	JESUS THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH	COLIN WALDOCK
3 APRIL	JESUS IN THE 21ST CENTURY	REV ROBIN SELMES

BECOMING CHURCH

CIRCUIT ONLINE LENT COURSE
TUESDAYS 7PM | VIA ZOOM

08 MARCH	LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER	REV ROBIN SELMES
15 MARCH	BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER & PRAYER	REV ROBERT ZACHAR
22 MARCH	GOD'S POWER AT WORK	BART WOODHOUSE
29 MARCH	A SENSE OF COMMUNITY	REV TONY GRAFF
05 APRIL	AN OUTWARD-LOOKING CHURCH	REV NAOMI OATES

LENT 2022



ZOOM MEETING ID
929 3964 3962
PASSCODE | 578033

PRAYER in LENT

This Lent the **Prayer Team** is asking people to pray; we have selected five topics, one for each week of Lent.

We are hoping to have people praying for 12 hours each day... Karen has a rota and we are asking you to select a slot for 5 weeks ie. 10am on each Monday throughout lent, it can be 30 minutes, an hour or more! We are very flexible! Each person commits to pray at that time, on the topic of the week.

Please contact us if you would like prayer for yourself, using either the prayer box, prayer email, post box or handing your request to a member of the Prayer Team. This may be anonymous, initials, names, situations or anything at all. If you are unable to be in Church on a Sunday but would like a prayer slot, please let us know using any of the above methods or ring the Church office on 01634 575139 and leave a message for the Prayer Team and someone will get back to you.

Prayer email address:
prayer@gillinghammethodists.uk

Please let us know if you would like any more information

Robin, Allison, Sarah, Karen and Carol

WEEK 1 1-5 MARCH

Topic | Praying for ourselves as individuals and as a Church.

Bible Verse | 1 Thessalonians 5:14

And we urge you brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

WEEK 2 7-12 MARCH

Topic | Praying for those who use our buildings: Kiddiwinks; JETS Dance; Girlguiding; Family Trust; Chrysalis; Craft Group; Tea@2; Drama Group; NRAS; NCT.

Bible Verse | Philippians 2:4

Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of others.

WEEK 3 14-19 MARCH

Topic | Praying for those in our community and locality: Third Avenue; Sturdee Avenue; Fourth Avenue; Barnsole Road.

Bible Verse | Psalm 133

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.

WEEK 4 21-16 MARCH

Topic | Praying for our local schools: Barnsole; Woodlands; Robert Napier.

Bible Verse | Proverbs 13:14

The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death.

WEEK 5 28 MARCH - 2 APRIL

Topic | Praying for our local residencies for elderly people: Pembroke House; Grace Manor; Darland House; Byron Lodge; Park View; Charing House.

Bible Verse | Leviticus 19 v 32

Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord.

WEEK 6 4-9 APRIL

Topic | Praying for local charities: Street Angels; Hands; Age UK Medway; Hands of Hope Foundation; MASH; Carers First; World Cafe; Tools for mission.

Bible Verse | Acts 20 v 35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY 10 APRIL	10.30AM THIRD AVENUE REV ROBIN SELMES 6.30PM HARTLIP REV TONY GRAFF
MAUNDY THURSDAY 14 APRIL	7.30PM THIRD AVENUE REV ROBIN SELMES WITH HOLY COMMUNION
GOOD FRIDAY 15 APRIL	6.30PM HARTLIP REV ROBIN SELMES
EASTER SUNDAY 17 APRIL	9.30AM HARTLIP 11AM THIRD AVENUE REV ROBIN SELMES WITH HOLY COMMUNION



Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

Hartlip
Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre

Hartlip Methodist Church & Retreat Centre

A rise in Covid numbers in the lead up to Christmas meant as a church we had to rethink our plans for a few weeks. The potential numbers likely for the Carol Service, coupled with the relatively small church with a single narrow aisle meant cancelling the Carol service and services until we reopened worship on the 9th January for our **Annual Covenant Service**. This is a uniquely Methodist service initiated in the time of John Wesley, though he in turn adapted it from an older Puritan act of worship. This worship is an annual renewal of our relationship with God, a little like a married couple renewing their wedding vows. Apologies to anyone who was hoping to join us at the Carol Service that we did need to cancel.

Mask wearing and social distancing have been practised though this is no longer a legal requirement. Currently with high infection rates caution is still the watchword but practices could be relaxed if numbers are falling. This is partly due to building layout and age and health needs of our regular congregation.

There have been individuals and groups using the **Retreat Centre**, and both "old friends" and first time visitors are also continuing to book for later in the year.

For anyone who is unable to get to church, the North Kent Circuit continues with circuit online services at 10.30 every Sunday. Details on nkmethodists.org.uk under the heading **Worship at Home**. Yours truly has just spent an hour on e-steward training with Martin Smith who has faithfully supported these services throughout the pandemic. These will continue for the foreseeable future.

During the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, Derek preached a thought provoking sermon celebrating working together as parts of God's Body on Earth. We must celebrate differences as they enrich our worship. We can gain so much by working together and learning to understand different views and experiences.

Maybe you can find one person to talk to, to listen to, to pray with, so that mutual love and understanding follows.

We are extremely fortunate to have a number of organists at Hartlip, but due to recent events we have had to rely on Heather a little more than normal. Thank you Heather!

Various congregation members have had Covid recently which has occasionally meant members taking on different roles temporarily or doing jobs when not originally on the rota. Thanks to all who have been flexible.

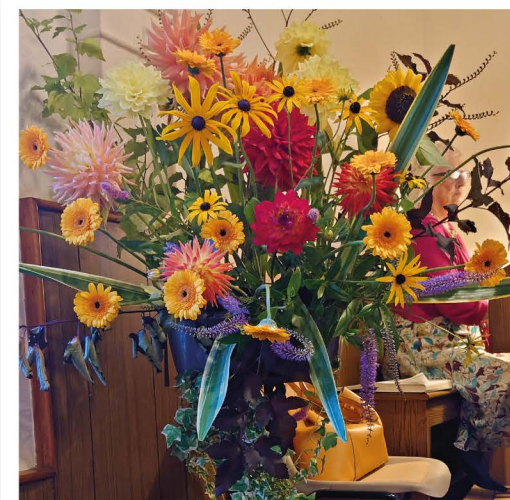
Congregation members continue to give pastoral care to each other as needs arise in terms of coping with this ever-present infection but we thank God for the improvements due to vaccination and new treatments.

Many of our weekday meetings continue to be on Zoom, but we intend to meet in persons to think about the Marriage and Relationship decisions, that all our churches need to address.

One particular joy that being in church at Hartlip always brings, apart from the fellowship itself, is the attention to the floral displays every week. Thank you to our flower arrangers.

Here's to being able to meet together more as this year progresses!

Margaret Bowerman



Heather's Poetry page

Over the years, I have always enjoyed writing poetry. Not great poetry. Not to everyone's taste, that's for sure. But poetry nonetheless.

During my decluttering phase in Lockdown, I came across a file of poems; long forgotten memories, hastily scribbled on scraps of paper and consigned to the bottom of a drawer. You could say the poems are the backdrop to my life. I thought I might share some of them with you, starting with the very first, entitled **Autumn**.

It was written in 1959, when I was twelve and a student at Sittingbourne Grammar School for Girls. I was regularly overwhelmed by the homework I was expected to complete but I could always rely on my dad to help me. This was the case with this particular piece of work.

I'd like to say that he just advised me on the use of vocabulary and grammar but I remember distinctly that I only wrote the first line when inspiration escaped me! He wrote the rest!

I got a really good mark for 'my' poem and only felt a little embarrassed by this. At the end of the year, however, I was mortified to see the poem had been included in the school magazine, presumably as an example of poetic brilliance! It has remained, until now, a guilty secret. Despite this, I have always been able to recite the poem from memory and it must have instilled a love of poetry in me that has stood the test of time.

My father, Vic (Skelham), loved poetry himself and used to point out the poems he liked best in the four Penguin poetry books he kept in his bureau at home. These books, alongside a lovely

hardback copy of 'The Oxford Book of English Verse' were once his treasured possessions but long before he died in 2001, he gave them to me and I've treasured them ever since.

The poetry book has a beautiful handwritten inscription inside the front cover:

"May this lovely collection afford you increasing joy as life unfolds itself, and may the 'viewless wings of Poesy' bear you away from future cares".

Amazingly, the book was a Christmas gift from his best friend in 1938 when they were both only nineteen! I have often since wondered how many young people today would write an inscription using the words of 'Ode to a Nightingale' by John Keats.

This would prove to be a bittersweet memory for my dad when, just a year later, he was captured in France, as part of the British Expeditionary Force and spent the next five years as a Prisoner of War in Silesia (Poland).

Despite all he endured, his love of poetry never dimmed and certainly sparked an interest in me.

So Dad, thank you for helping me to appreciate the beauty of words.

Autumn

The golden leaves from off the trees
Are littered on the grassy mound.
They twist and twirl in gentle breeze,
In playful eddies, blow around.

Pale golden brown and russet red
They fall in colourful array,
From proud tall trees, now seeming dead,
To fields and farms and gardens gay.

Stark against the wintry sky,
Skeleton branches darkly stand.
Summer's memories, away they fly
When autumn comes to all the land!

Heather Gallagher wrote this article back in the *Autumn*, when the poem would have been more appropriate! At that time, we were unable to produce a magazine, but the editors felt it right to still share this now, as this is the perfect opener to a regular column from Heather.

Hartlip 200

Methodist Church
& Retreat Centre



Hartlip's 200th Anniversary was originally intended to be celebrated in the Chapel in 2020, but of course, this was not possible, because of the Pandemic. Although the foundation stone was laid in 1820, the Chapel was not officially opened until 1821, so we were happy to delay our special Service until June of last year.

Sadly, it was still not safe to meet in person so we planned a wonderful Live Stream service that hopefully you watched at the time. However, if not, the Service can still be viewed on YouTube by simply searching **Hartlip Methodist Church**.

Unbeknown to our congregation, a special wall hanging had been designed and made by Gill Rayfield, a good friend of our congregation and was due to be displayed in the Chapel for the first time during the original Anniversary service. Gill and her husband, David, are life long friends of our Senior Steward, Glenis Davison and her husband, Andrew, and have supported the Chapel many times over the years.

Gill's excellent artistry and superb talent can be clearly seen in this accompanying photograph and we want to thank her publicly here for such a beautiful piece of art. Her wall hanging was eventually quilted by Mary Thorogood, one of our talented members and it was then donated by the Davison family for us all to enjoy.

It is now hung permanently in the Chapel and will be a unique and uplifting way of recognising our 200th Anniversary year, and for all to see.

Heather Gallagher

WEDNESDAY Prayer & Praise


Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

OUR SPRING SERVICES
WITH BE HELD ON
WEDNESDAYS 23 MARCH,
27 APRIL AND 25 MAY

Our **midweek worship service** gives you an opportunity to meet up, connect and worship God in between our Sunday Morning Services.

Meeting on the **fourth Wednesday** in the month at **11am** for about half an hour, with the act of **Holy Communion**, then stay on to enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

14th Gillingham



Our **Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units** met on Zoom throughout the pandemic continuing to work on our Girlguiding programme, adapting some of our activities to suit Zoom and distributing activity packs for each session. In fact, during lockdown, one of our older Brownies gained her Gold Brownie award - a fantastic result and an amazing achievement, the result of three years of hard work, learning new skills, experiencing new adventures and, of course, having lots of fun. She is now continuing her Girlguiding adventure in Guides.

We have resumed our face to face meetings with all units returning at full capacity. The girls absolutely love being in the hall together again. Last term our Brownie activities included making maps with grid references, making a poppy wreath for Remembrance and learning how to paper fold magazines into a Christmas tree decoration. We held a real campfire with our District and went to the cinema for a Girlguiding-only showing of the Disney film 'Encanto'. We also joined in with Third Avenue Church celebrations; decorating a window at Harvest and a tree at Christmas. This term we have been stargazing, learning about the countryside code, we celebrated International Lego Day with lots of fun lego challenges and during half term we had a fabulous time watching the pantomime Hansel and Gretel presented by St Paul's drama group.

On **International Day of the Girl 2020**, WAGGGS asked Girl Guides and Girl Scouts under 18 from 100 countries what issues they were most concerned about and found out that their number one worry is the environment. So, as part of this year's World Thinking Day activities, our members explored environmental issues. At our **Thinking Day parade service** on 20th February, together with the congregation of Third Avenue, we made pledges to help the future wellbeing of our planet. Over 180 pledges were written on leaves and displayed on a tree during the service. Our individual pledges may seem small, but together they will make a huge difference.



On 22nd February Girlguiding across the world celebrated **Thinking Day**; a special date in our Girlguiding calendar. We are part of a bigger movement: the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and World Thinking Day is a chance for us to connect with 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe and to shout about the amazing things we do. The theme for 2022 is **Our World, Our Equal Future**.

Snowy Owl
Helen Garland



World Thinking Day Service - February 2022



Flowers and Trees:

- * plant more wild flowers
- * plant pollinators
- * plant flowering plants
- * plant a wild garden
- * plant trees

180 planet pledges made

Animals, Birds and Insects:

- * adopt an animal
- * build a bug house
- * feed the birds,
- * create wildlife gardens

Out and about:

- * walk to school
- * cycle more
- * drive less & use less petrol
- * next car to be electric/Hybrid

Litter:

- * go litter picking
- * pick up litter
- * put litter in bin
- * do not litter

Recycling:

- * get a recycle bin
- * recycle more
- * recycle clothes
- * recycle household waste
- * recycle plastic bottles
- * compost food waste



Power:

- * more solar power
- * wind power
- * don't leave lights on
- * turn off chargers

Reuse:

- * reuse our toys
- * reuse our clothes
- * reuse plastic bottles
- * reuse plastic containers

Water:

- * turn off tap when cleaning teeth
- * save water



Beach & Oceans

- * beach cleans to remove plastic & litter
- * campaign to stop throwing rubbish in oceans
- * protect oceans & look after fish and sea animals

Up-cycle plastic:

- * make a bug house
- * bird feeder
- * bee feeders
- * make garden ornaments

Food:

- * shop locally
- * shop at farmers market
- * more home cooking
- * only buy what you need
- * eat less meat/animal products

Refuse & Reduce:

- * reduce use of plastic at home
- * not to buy any more cling film
- * use a reusable bottle not plastic
- * not to use plastic cutlery
- * reduce deforestation





In loving memory of
Margaret Baynes
1931-2022

*founder of the
14th Gillingham
Girlguiding unit
in 1949 aged 18*

Our District would like to give special thanks for the life of a very special lady, **Margaret Baynes**, who sadly died this January. In 1949, as a teenager, Margaret and her friend inaugurated our Brownie Unit. Initially, they invited girls from the local children's home. They walked with them to our church hall for the Brownie meetings every week. When some of the older girls were ready to move to Guides, Margaret and her friend also started our Guide Unit and for many years we have had a Rainbow Unit too. We have guesstimated that over 800 girls have passed through our units throughout the past 73 years and all units are continuing to thrive today as you can see from our article.

Margaret loved Girlguiding and carried out various roles within Gillingham East District, Division and County before she retired and became a Trefoil

member. In 1985, whilst in the role of County Commissioner, Margaret received the peace candle as part of Girlguiding's 75th birthday. The light still shines bright in the church during services and on Thinking Day each year to encourage peace, harmony and unity throughout the world.

In 2019 Margaret was presented with the distinguished **One Step Beyond** Girlguiding award for her loyal and devoted services to Girlguiding. Margaret has been an amazing Girlguiding ambassador and continues to be an inspiration to us all.

We are thankful for Margaret's commitment to Girlguiding and she will always be in our thoughts. We will miss her dearly.

From all her Gillingham East District Girlguiding family

Margaret's Funeral service will take place on **Thursday 3rd March, 1pm** at The Garden of England Crematorium, Bobbing. This will be a private service for Family and friends by invitation only, but will be live streamed - simply visit the website <https://watch.obitus.com> with the **user name: vufu8437** and **password: 173877**. A thanksgiving service will take place later in the year at Third Avenue Church & Community.

Forgiving in the lunch hall

*A modern retelling of the parable
of the unforgiving servant, written
by Ava, Caedmon & Thomas
in God Squad*

Steve gives Kevin £2 so he can get sausage rolls for his lunch. The next day, Steve kindly asks Kevin for the money back that he owed.

Kevin says he is so sorry, that he doesn't have the money that he owes. Steve then says "I'll go and tell if you don't give me the money you owe."

Kevin begs for a bit more time. Steve feels sorry for Kevin, so he lets him off his debt. Kevin sighed; he was so relieved and thankful.

A little while later.....

Kevin walks into the playground and bumps into Bobby. Kevin said "Have you got my £1 that you owe me

Bobby replies "I am so sorry, please give me more time".

Kevin says "I am going to tell the teachers on you".

Bobby begs for a bit more time again.

Kevin says "No! Why would I do that? I'm getting you into trouble...ha ha ha!"

Steve happens to see all of this.

Steve says "Why did you do that?"

Kevin says "What? Ummm...."

Steve then says "I forgave you for your debt, why didn't you show mercy to Bobby?"

Kevin was speechless. He looked around and everyone was watching, including the headmistress.

"DETENTION!! For you Kevin".

The End

NOMINATIONS FOR CHARITY 2022-23 of the year

Third Avenue Church & Community currently supports **Medway Street Angels** in their work as our charity of the year 2019-20, which we rolled over through the pandemic.

Whilst support has mostly been financial some of you may have been moved to make further research and to even have reached out to support this charity in other ways as a result of our church highlighting the work undertaken.

As our Mission Team seeks to find another charity our church will support in the next Methodist Year it does not mean the Street Angels are forgotten and will remain in the church collective prayers.

We are seeking your nominations for consideration of a suitable charity that this time around will primarily minister their care and services abroad. The Mission Team will choose from your nominations for voting at our upcoming AGM as before, and we will favour charities working abroad, but based in Kent and operating from a Christian footing.

Please give your nomination and brief reasons behind your choice to members of our Mission Team (Carol Waldoock, Karen Willing, Becky and Paul Abel) by Easter and we will present these for the voting during our May AGM.

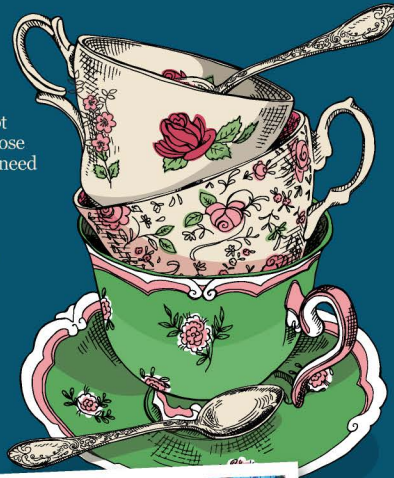
Tea@2

Especially, but not exclusively, for those living alone or in need of company

You are warmly invited to share
Tea & cakes with friends

Every Second
Wednesday of the month
2pm ~ 3.30pm

Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU



Tea@2 finally came back on the 8 December after more than 18 months following the national lockdown. It was so lovely to see some familiar faces who we hadn't seen for such a long time. We had a lovely afternoon tea and as it was Christmas, we had Anne Elliott's delicious mince pies along with lots of lovely treats and of course lots of tea and coffee. We also had some carol singing and surrounded by Christmas trees made it feel a very festive afternoon.

We have met again on the 12 January when Robin talked to us about how important it is to smile and to make us smile more he shared some Christmas cracker jokes. Some were funny and some were not!

We will be meeting **every month** from now on, on the second Wednesday of each month so please feel free to come along and enjoy some company with friends and also some lovely cakes and treats and of course a lovely cup of tea or coffee.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all the helpers from baking cakes helping to serve and to making the tea and coffee, and of course the

washer uppers after. Also to all the drivers who do the pick ups and home drop offs. We couldn't run this group with out you all.

Looking forward to seeing you all during spring: on 9 March; 13 April and 11 May .

Everyone welcome

God Bless **Mandy Selmes**

Spring AN ACROSTIC POEM

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom,
Petals of every colour and hue,
Rain and sun caressing the earth
Inspiring spring bulbs to come into view.
Now is the time of new beginnings
Giving us pleasure all season through.



NOW ACCEPTING CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

AVAILABLE IN THE FOYER

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.



Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your **contactless debit or credit card or smart phone** onto the reader

You can also make a donation online via our **website: gillinghammethodists.uk** or by scanning the QR Code below

Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
100 THIRD AVENUE | GILLINGHAM | ME7 2LU

You can also opt-in for Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received

Please note that Dona uses our legal name: Gillingham Methodist Church



Phyl Martin

1919-2021

Phyllis Lucy Clarke was born on the 5th July 1919 in Dover Kent, and just as you rarely come across anyone called Phyllis these days, she was literally one very unique lady, with a passion, presence and persuasive manner.

Like many of her generation it was the employment draw of the Dockyard that was to bring her father to Gillingham to work as a shipwright in the Dockyard. Indeed when it was time for Phyllis to begin work herself, it was not in the Dockyard, but no doubt her eyes turned towards it every day as she caught the ferry from Gillingham Pier to Upnor.

Phyllis and Sid married at St Barnabas Church in Gillingham on 20th December 1942, and they had 2 children, Janet and Derek.

Sid was invalided out of the Royal Navy and was to work for his father at the Cricketers Pub in Sturdee Avenue. A few years later the family moved into the Cricketers and Phyllis became the unofficial land lady for many years, a place I was to first have my introduction to her when as a youngster. I would sell the War Cry and Young Soldier on a Friday night.

Cleave Road was to become the family home, and a welcome home it was indeed.



I first really got to know Phyllis when I became the minister at what was then Gillingham Methodist Church, still in the battle to change its name from St Paul's.

She was a formidable lady, always ready to express her views, but never to hold back with her enthusiasm and there is no doubt that she was an influencer in those early days. Along with Cyril Berry and the treasurer Pat, they began to turn the tide of opinion, and enabled a new vision for the direction of the church to emerge.

Always sat in the same seat, she was a constant source of encouragement, a bit of a flirt, as my own son Jason would say, but there was a warmth and passion about everything that she did. This passion was so evident in her desire to help

people, and she was not afraid to use her connections in the Conservative Association. She served as a Governor of Barnsole Road School, and was one of the driving forces, along with the connection that Frank Watton had, in bringing the school to the church for the packed out carol service held there.

I also discovered something of this selfless capacity that she had, when one day the conversation turned to my grandfather. My grandparents wanted to move to Rainham, to be closer to my own parents. What I did not know until the day of this conversation, was that Phyl and her Sid went to put in an offer on a bungalow in Thames Avenue, but when they got to the agents, they were informed that another couple were coming down from London to view the property, the wife of whom was suffering the



effects of a major stroke, and wanted to be near family for support. Phyl and Sid withdrew the offer so that the London couple could have the bungalow. That London couple were my grandparents.

John's Gospel says "In my father house are many rooms". Well, they will be well organised, beautifully decorated with flowers, now Phyl is there. The Book of Revelation says that those who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb will "serve him day and night in his temple". A life of service on earth is now continued as a life of service in heaven.

These words are written anonymously:

*How will the value of our days be measured?
What really matters most.*

*What will matter is not what you bought,
but what you built; not what you got,
but what you gave.*

*What will matter is not your success,
but your significance.*

*What will matter is not what you learned, but
what you taught.*

*What will matter is every act of integrity,
compassion, courage and sacrifice that
enriched, empowered or encouraged others
to emulate your example.*

*What will matter is not your competence,
but your character.*

*What will matter is not how many
people you knew, but how many will
feel a lasting loss when you're gone.*

*What will matter is not your memories,
but the memories of those who loved
you. What matters is how long you will
be remembered, by whom and for what.*

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance, but of choice.

We celebrate the life of one who chose to live her life in such a way, that it will continue to matter to all who knew and loved her.

Rev Melvyn Cooke



Drama Group News

Hi everyone
We would like to thank those who came and supported our panto, **Hansel and Gretel**, it seems to have gone down really well with both audience and cast. I think we all appreciated being back together again. It was a difficult task to put together the show under Covid restrictions etc. and all involved behind the scenes did a fabulous job with Kelly heading up as producer. We now look forward to our summer show, yet to be decided, but please make note of the dates:

8th and 9th July.

Thank you again, all our hard work would be wasted if it wasn't for you all.

Love Sally



ST PAUL'S DRAMA GROUP
PROUDLY PRESENTS

HANSEL and GRETEL

A Panto by Alan P Frayn

February Performances

Friday 11th February	7.30pm
Saturday 12th February	3pm & 7.30pm
Friday 18th February	6pm
Saturday 19th February	7.30pm

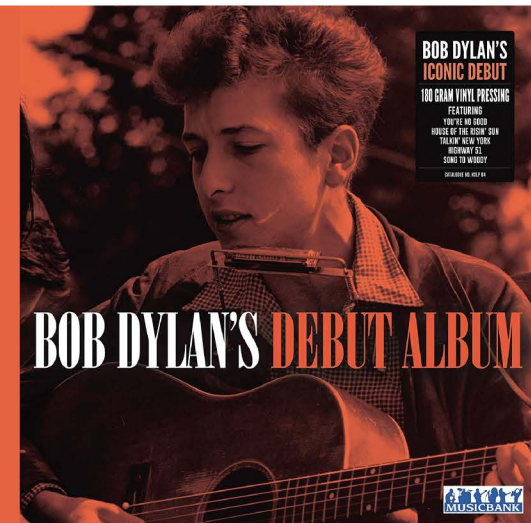
Adults £7
Child £5

For box office and information:
01634 852712

Community Hall, 100 Third Avenue, Gillingham
www.stpaulsdramagroup.co.uk

Bob Dylan

60 years on since his debut album



Sixty years ago, on 19 March 1962, the **American folk-rock singer** Bob Dylan released his debut album, Bob Dylan. It contained only two original songs, the other 11 being mostly folk covers and partial rewrites, but his huge talent was already apparent. He came from northern Minnesota, but no-one could have guessed where he was going.

Dylan's great inspiration was Woody Guthrie, a folk singer and spokesman for the poor who was dying in the early 60s of Huntington's Chorea. Dylan visited him in hospital, and his first album contained a tribute to him, called 'Song to Woody'.

That album did not make a huge splash, but the follow-up, 'The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan', released in May 1963 and containing all Dylan's own songs, was a huge success – the first of many. He quickly transformed himself from a first-rank folk singer to a singer-songwriter of huge versatility, outraging many of his original fans by 'going electric' at the Newport Folk Festival two years later.

A motorcycle accident in the mid-60s stopped Dylan in his tracks, and made him rethink the direction he was going – now married and starting a family. But he had a huge following, and everything he produced was snatched up. He combined imaginative, poetic lyrics with attractive melodies, and his singing, though criticised by some, was notable for its innovative but perfect timing, copied by many.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Dylan shocked his fans by producing three explicitly Christian albums following an experience where, he said, "Jesus put His hand on me". For a while he would play nothing else, but his output became wider again after Infidels (1983). Though he has produced (for him) indifferent albums, he continues – especially in recent years – to come out with breath-taking masterpieces. He is 81 this year.

Parish Pump



Even our weeds have been saved!

We are supporting **#NoMowMay**

by saying **no to the mower** this May to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us! www.plantlife.org.uk

Third Avenue
CHURCH & COMMUNITY
GILLINGHAM METHODISTS | Part of the North Kent Circuit

Lola News

Hello everyone I do hope you are all well? I have been having more naps throughout the day to recharge my batteries! But when I have been out I have had some lovely walks to the park. Recently I went to Herne Bay! I made the most of the sun and my old legs before the cold weather plays them up. I am sure a few of yourselves will be on the same wavelength as me!

Trudy took me to a WI meeting recently, and she spoke about me and I found the ladies lovely and made such a fuss over me. Well I was well in!

Last week Mason and I had a sleepover! It was good to spend time with him. He has recently started a new school, St Margaret's in Rainham, and he loves it.

Time goes past so quickly, I will have my 15th birthday in August this year. Time for a lay down and shut eye, roll on!



Take care
love Trudy & Lola x

PRAYER
 Every Thursday
 via zoom at 9am
 Meeting ID: 929 0714 9107 | Passcode: 883791

Smile

*Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
 Give me the grace to see a joke,
 To get some humour out of life,
 And pass it on to other folk.*

Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am – in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

Less Calories

A minister took his young daughter to the grocery store with him. In addition to the healthful items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The minister noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"And why is that?" she asked.

"Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

Young and old

A baby-sitter is a teenager acting like an adult, while the adults are out acting like teenagers.

Best

The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman. "And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said.
 "No peer pressure."

Sermon

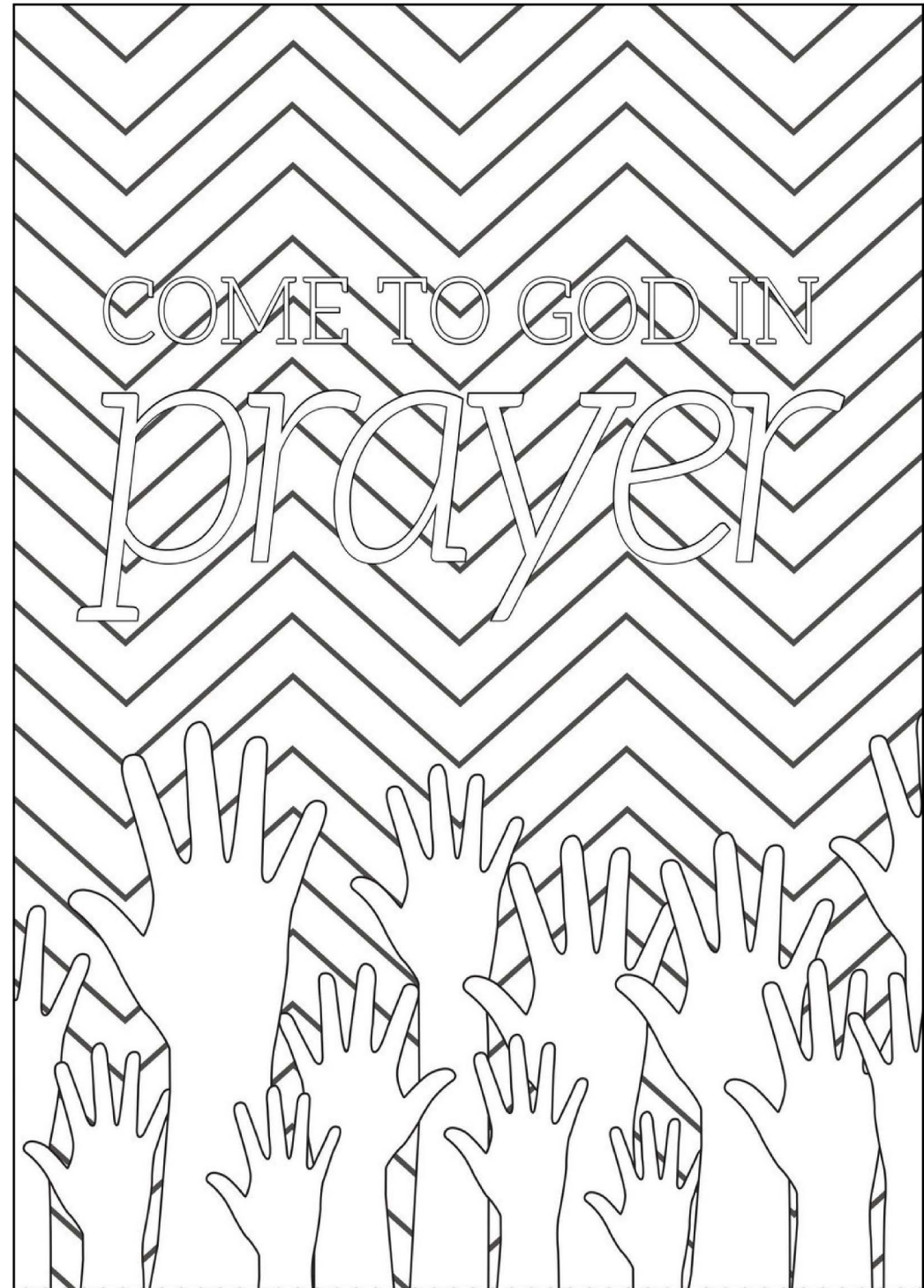
When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

It helps

Laughter is like changing a baby's nappy: it doesn't permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while.

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| lent | selfdenial | mothers | disciples |
| spiritual | repentance | love | worldwide |
| easter | seeking | care | flowers |
| preparation | finding | nurture | thankyou |
| fasting | growing | learning | nursing |
| prayer | | teaching | family |
| desert | | | |



Easy

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	4	2	6			5		
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2	3						9	5
7	8			4			3	6
		7			9	4	1	
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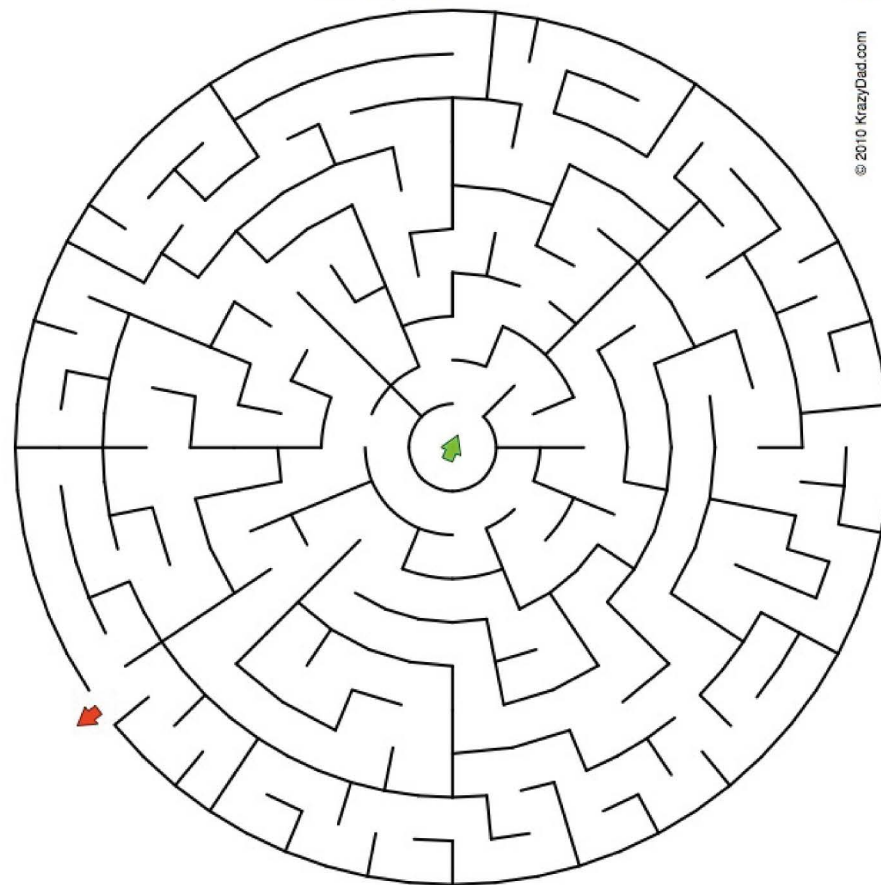
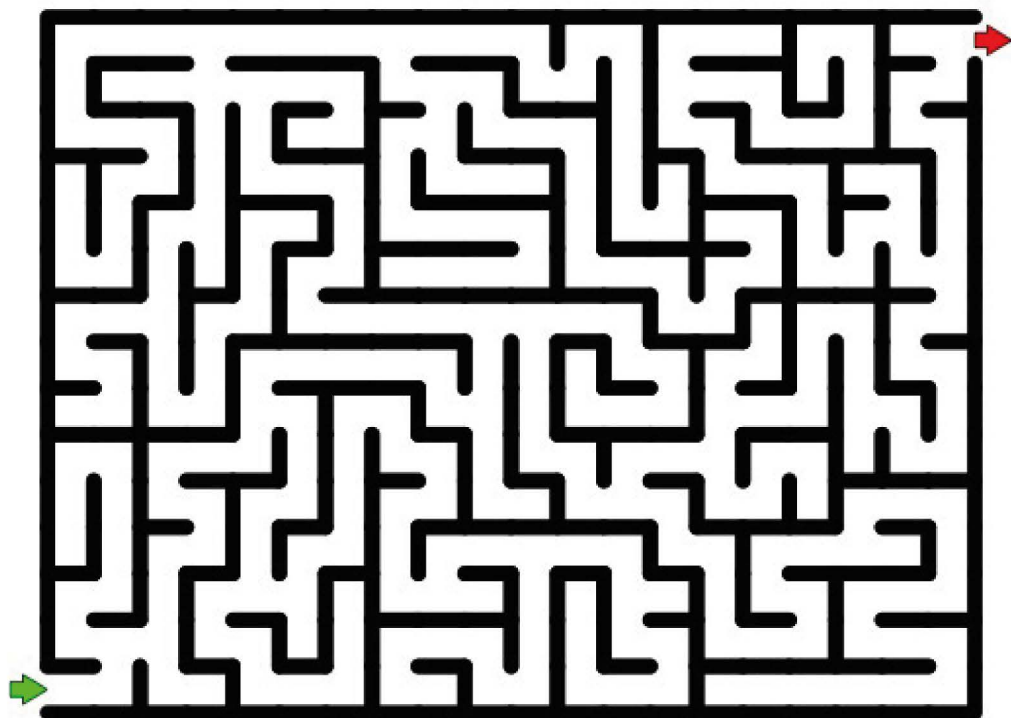
Intermediate

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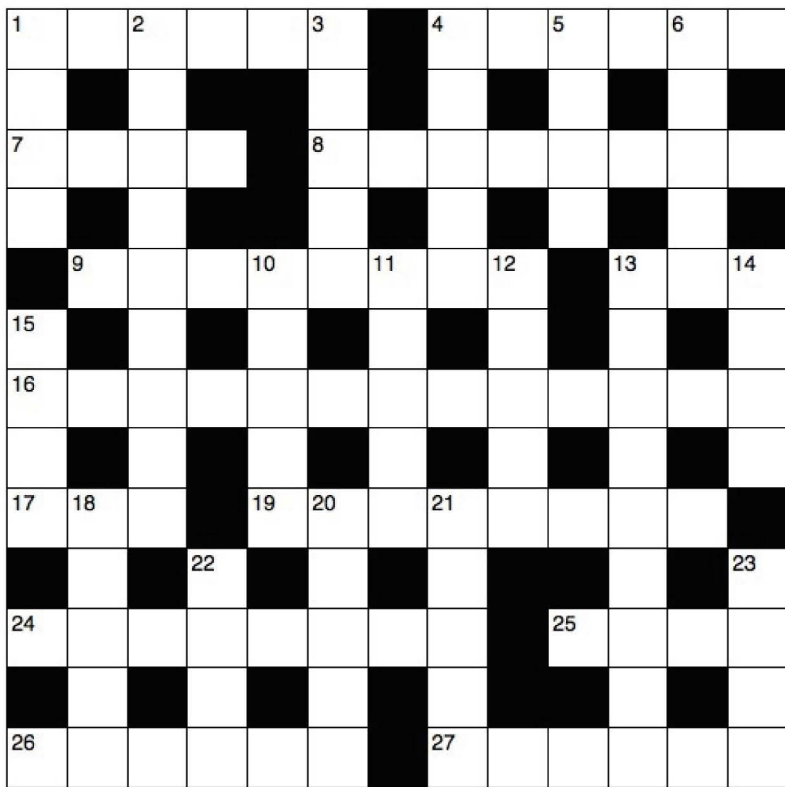
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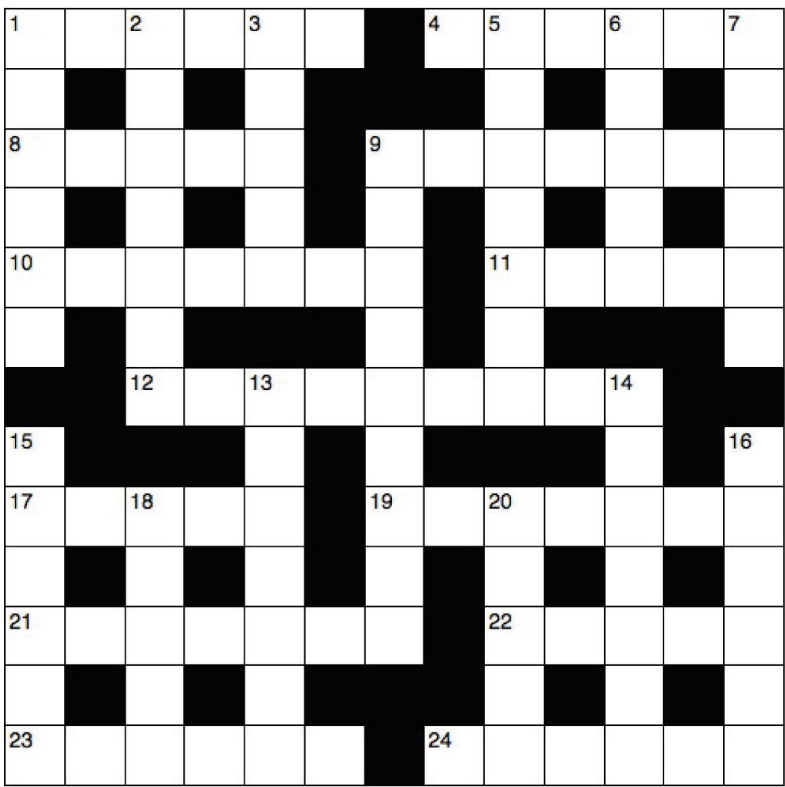
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Crosswords



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

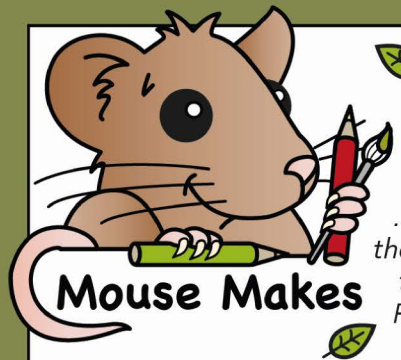
- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)

Across

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 "“They — ,” you will say, “but I'm not hurt!”" (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)
- 12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies' (Proverbs 12:17) (9)
- 17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)
- 19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)
- 21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)
- 22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)
- 23 'All the people — — one man, saying, “None of us will go home”" (Judges 20:8) (4,2)
- 24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died, was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

- 1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)
- 2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)
- 3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)
- 5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)
- 6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — ' (Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)
- 7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)
- 9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)
- 13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5) (7)
- 14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)
- 15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)
- 16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth (Acts 16:14) (6)
- 18 Donkeys (5)
- 20 Raked (anag.) (5)



GOOD FRUIT OR BAD FRUIT?

Jesus said:

"No good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. Each tree is known by its own fruit..."

...Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts."

- Luke 6: 43-45

During LENT ask God to help you through His Holy Spirit to turn your hate to **love**, your impatience to **patience** and your unkindness to **kindness**, so we can be like a good tree that grows good fruit.



READ
Luke
6: 27-45

How did Jesus say we should treat others?

Look up
Luke 6:31

S P E A K A E S D
B R O F R U I T E
L A F G I V E O H
E Y O O H E A R T
S P R O D U C E R
S A G D A B H D E
B R I N G O W N E
A E V I L O V E V
D R E P E N T E K

Do

to everyone who asks you
Luke 6:30

to those that hate you
Luke 6:27

for those who are cruel to you
Luke 6:28

those who curse you
Luke 6:28

and you will be forgiven
Luke 6:37

Find these words from **Luke 6** in the word search above.
GOOD • BAD • FRUIT • TREE • HEART • EVIL • EACH • OWN • STORED
PRODUCE • BRING • SPEAK • REPENT • FORGIVE • LOVE • BLESS • PRAY • GIVE

Puzzle solutions...

Sudoku Easy...

1	6	3	5	8	4	7	2	9
8	7	5	2	9	3	6	4	1
9	4	2	6	1	7	5	8	3
5	1	6	9	3	2	8	7	4
2	3	4	8	7	6	1	9	5
7	8	9	1	4	5	2	3	6
6	5	7	3	2	9	4	1	8
3	2	8	4	5	1	9	6	7
4	9	1	7	6	8	3	5	2

3	8	2	5	6	7	1	9	4
5	4	6	8	9	1	2	3	7
1	9	7	4	2	3	5	8	6
2	3	8	1	5	6	4	7	9
4	5	9	3	7	2	8	6	1
6	7	1	9	4	8	3	5	2
8	2	3	7	1	9	6	4	5
7	1	4	6	3	5	9	2	8
9	6	5	2	8	4	7	1	3

Intermediate...

4	8	5	6	2	7	3	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	4	2	7	5
7	2	3	9	1	5	8	4	6
2	5	9	4	8	6	7	1	3
8	3	4	1	7	2	5	6	9
1	6	7	3	5	9	4	2	8
6	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
5	4	1	7	6	3	9	8	2
3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5	4

3	6	7	2	9	1	5	8	4
9	1	2	5	8	4	6	3	7
4	8	5	6	3	7	2	1	9
8	5	6	7	1	2	9	4	3
7	3	9	8	4	5	1	6	2
2	4	1	3	6	9	7	5	8
5	7	4	1	2	3	8	9	6
1	9	8	4	7	6	3	2	5
6	2	3	9	5	8	4	7	1

Crossword...

C	R	E	D	I	T		T	A	C	K	L	E
O	P		A		E	A		A		E		
C	A	I	N		K	E	N	A	N	I	A	H
K	S		E		E		E			V		
	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H		B	E	G
A	O		R		U	O		A			U	
S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	A	R	M	Y
I		I	S		D		E		B		S	
A	R	C		E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y	
O	H		O		A			R		M		
A	D	M	O	N	I	S	H		D	I	R	E
I		P		C		A			A		N	
S	N	E	E	Z	E		B	R	O	N	Z	E

A	W	A	K	E	N		Q	U	E	N	C	H		
G		T		J			N		O			A		
H	I	T	M	E		S	A	D	N	E	S	S		
A	E		C		A		E		N		T			
S	E	M	I	T	I	C		R	I	D	G	E		
T		P				R		G				N		
						T	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y
S			A			F				E		D		
P	S	A	L	M			I	N	D	U	L	G	E	
I		S		A		C				R		L	A	
D	E	S	E	R	V	E				A	R	I	E	L
E			E			I				K			N	E
R	O	S	E	A	S			B	E	G	G	A	R	

Wordsearch...

e	e	f	e	p	d	n	t	l	y	r	l	g	p	i
l	c	r	t	r	r	y	f	a	m	i	l	y	n	u
a	a	n	e	e	i	a	g	i	e	t	e	n	u	h
c	g	u	a	d	s	h	y	n	n	e	i	r	e	
u	s	n	t	t	i	o	r	e	i	d	w	r	s	i
o	t	n	i	n	w	l	d	r	n	i	t	i	t	
y	r	n	r	h	r	e	d	f	w	r	n	n	t	
k	g	d	i	s	c	i	p	l	e	s	g	a	g	u
n	o	i	t	a	r	a	p	e	r	p	r	k	e	f
a	g	n	i	k	e	e	s	r	o	r	r			
h	i	n	t	k	t	a	h	t	i	e	w	t	u	o
t	a	h	r	i	y	s	e	t	h					
a	o	e	e	l	t	i	a	o	c	n	a	r	e	
t	i	p	t	r	e	e	v	l	m	g	d	u	r	
p	i	l	d	e	t	r	e	s	e	d	m	f	n	s

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the
palm of His hand.*

*Traditional
Gaelic Blessing*



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